

Attitudes toward Raising the Minimum Purchase Age for Tobacco among U.S. Adults

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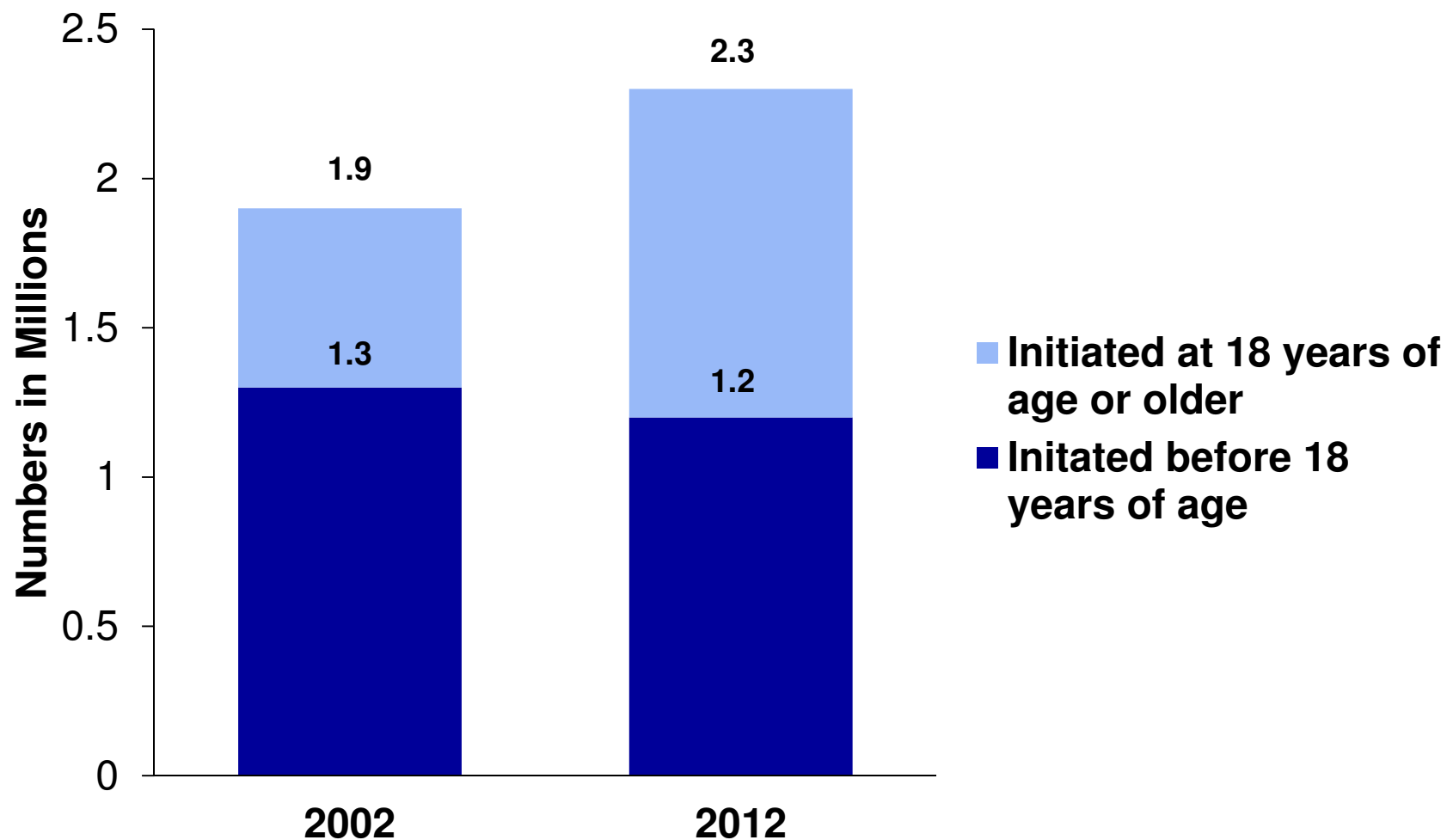
Office on Smoking and Health



Funding and Disclosure Statement

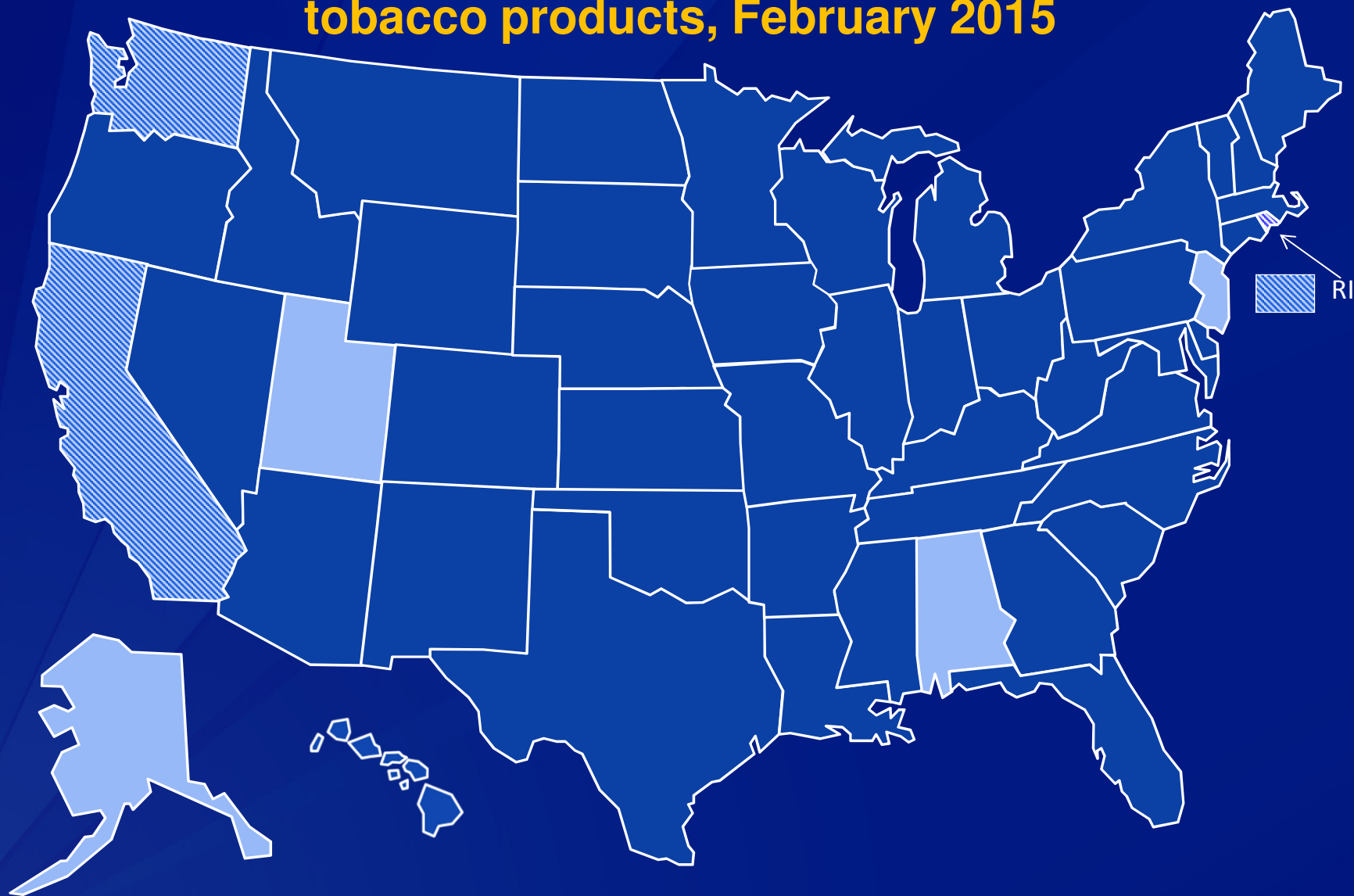
- ❑ The authors have no conflicts of interest or funding sources to declare.**
- ❑ The findings and conclusions in this study are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Background: The number of youth and young adults who started cigarette smoking increased from 2002-2012



Source: NSDUH 2002-2012

Background: Minimum age of purchase for conventional tobacco products, February 2015



18; Considering Raising to 21



19



18

Study Objective

- ❑ Assess attitudes toward raising the minimum tobacco purchase age to 21 among U.S. adults.

Summer Styles 2014

Who

U.S. adults aged ≥ 18 (n=4,219)

What

***Summer Styles* (Knowledge Panel) internet survey, 69% response rate**

Where

Nationally representative sample; data are weighted to Current Population Survey distributions

When

Survey conducted in June-July 2014

Why

Inform public health planning, policy, and practice

Survey Question

“Do you favor or oppose raising the legal minimum age to purchase all tobacco products from 18 to 21”?

Strongly favor

Somewhat favor

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

- Respondents who selected “strongly favor” or “somewhat” favor were considered to favor raising the minimum purchase age.**

Analysis

- Point estimates and 95% confidence intervals
- Multivariate logistic regression
- Stratification by sociodemographic characteristics:



Smoking
Status



Annual
Income



US Region



Age



Sex

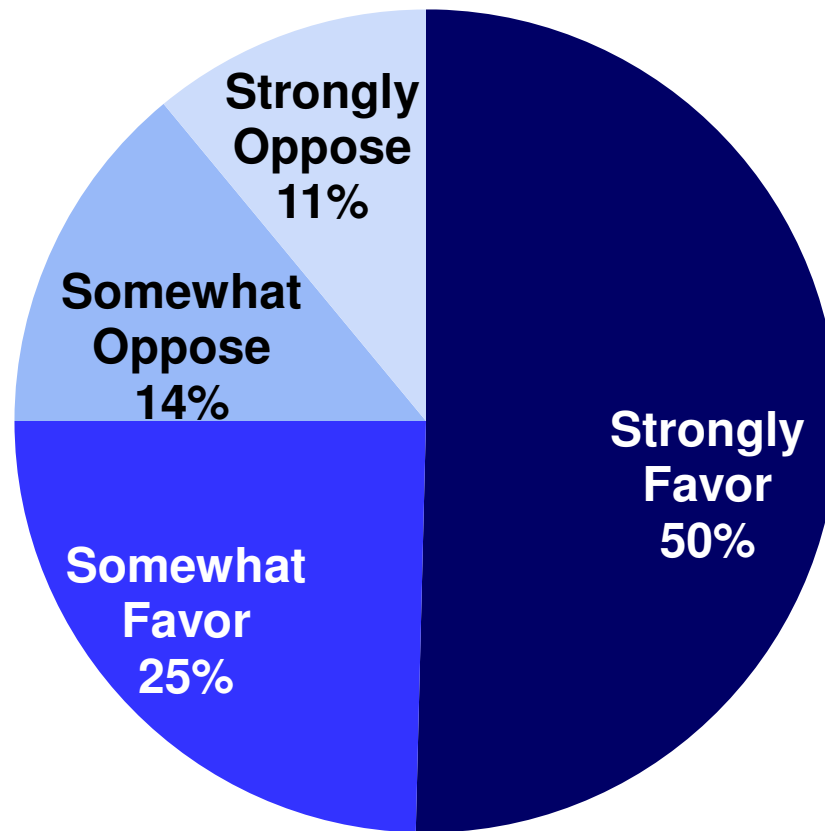


Race/
Ethnicity

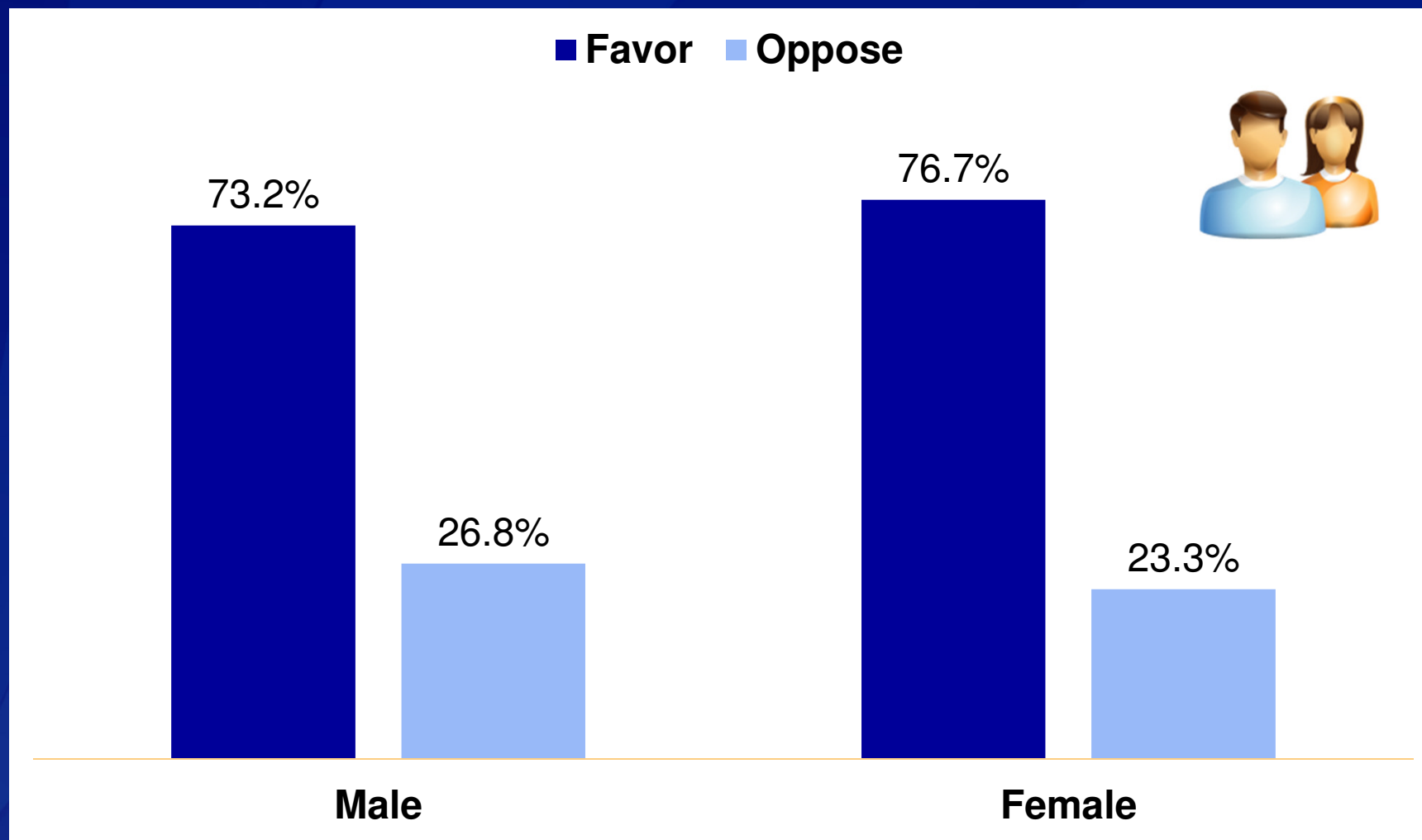


Education

Three-quarters of adults favor raising the minimum purchase age for tobacco to 21

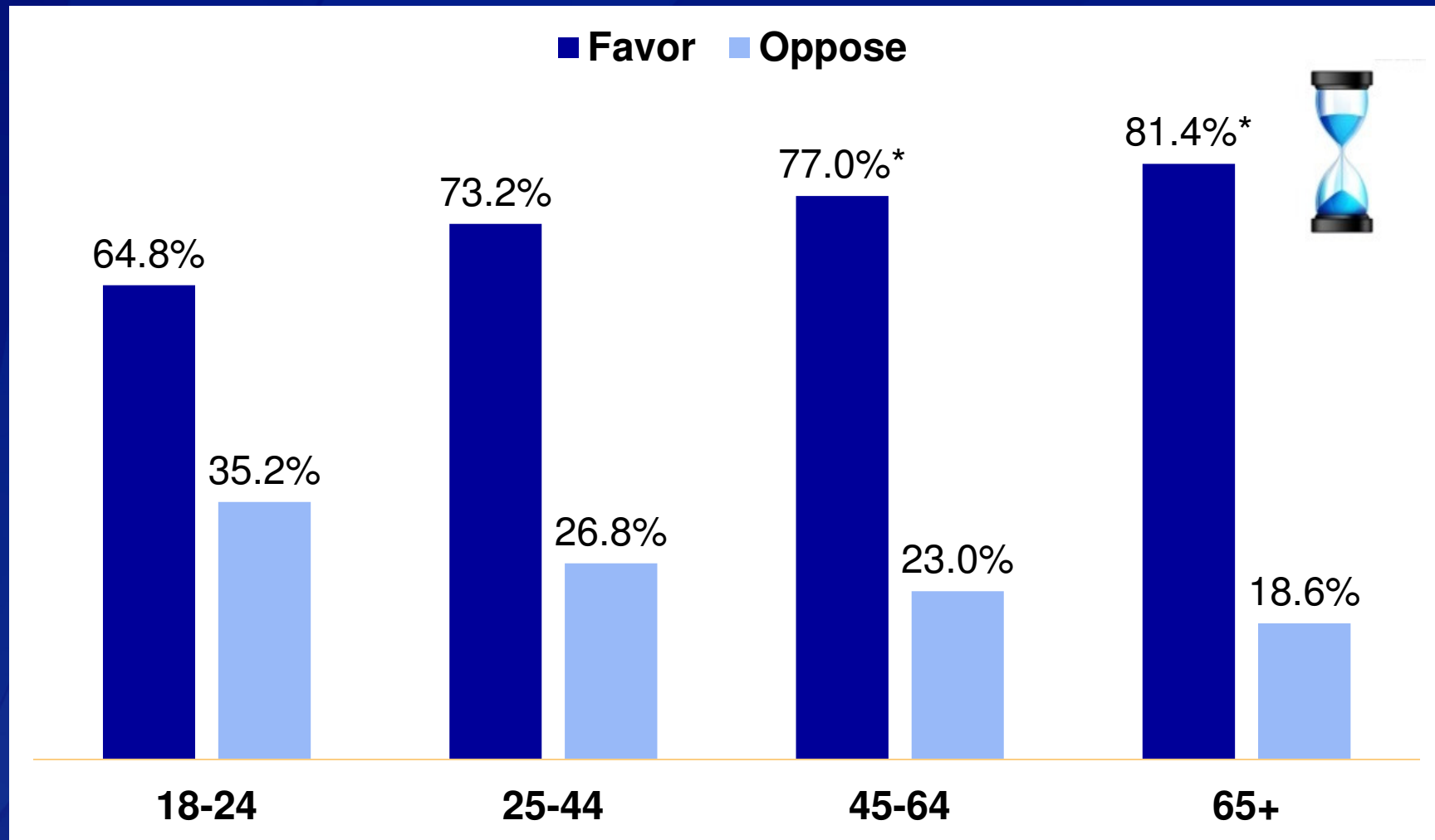


Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Sex



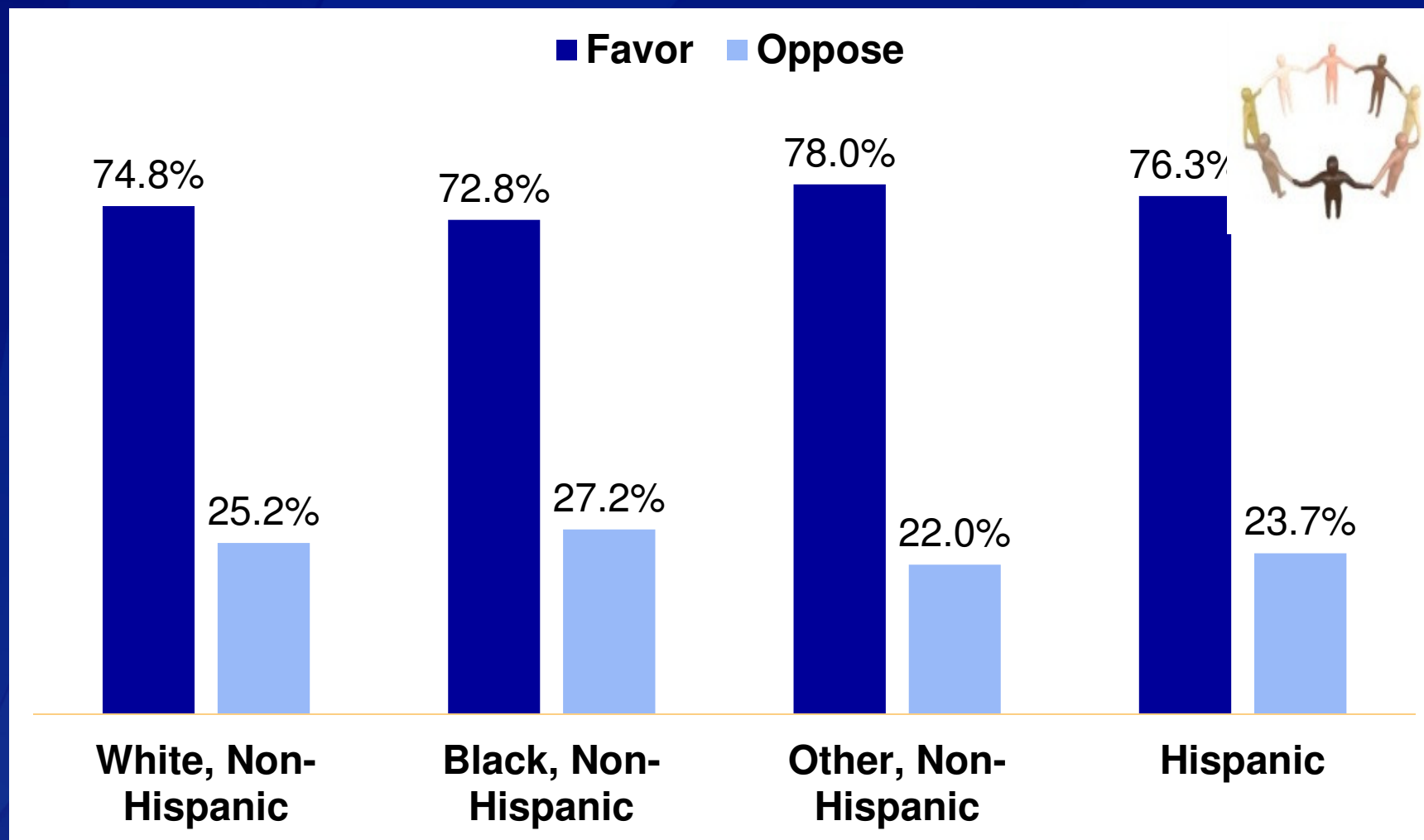
No statistically significant difference observed between groups.

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Age



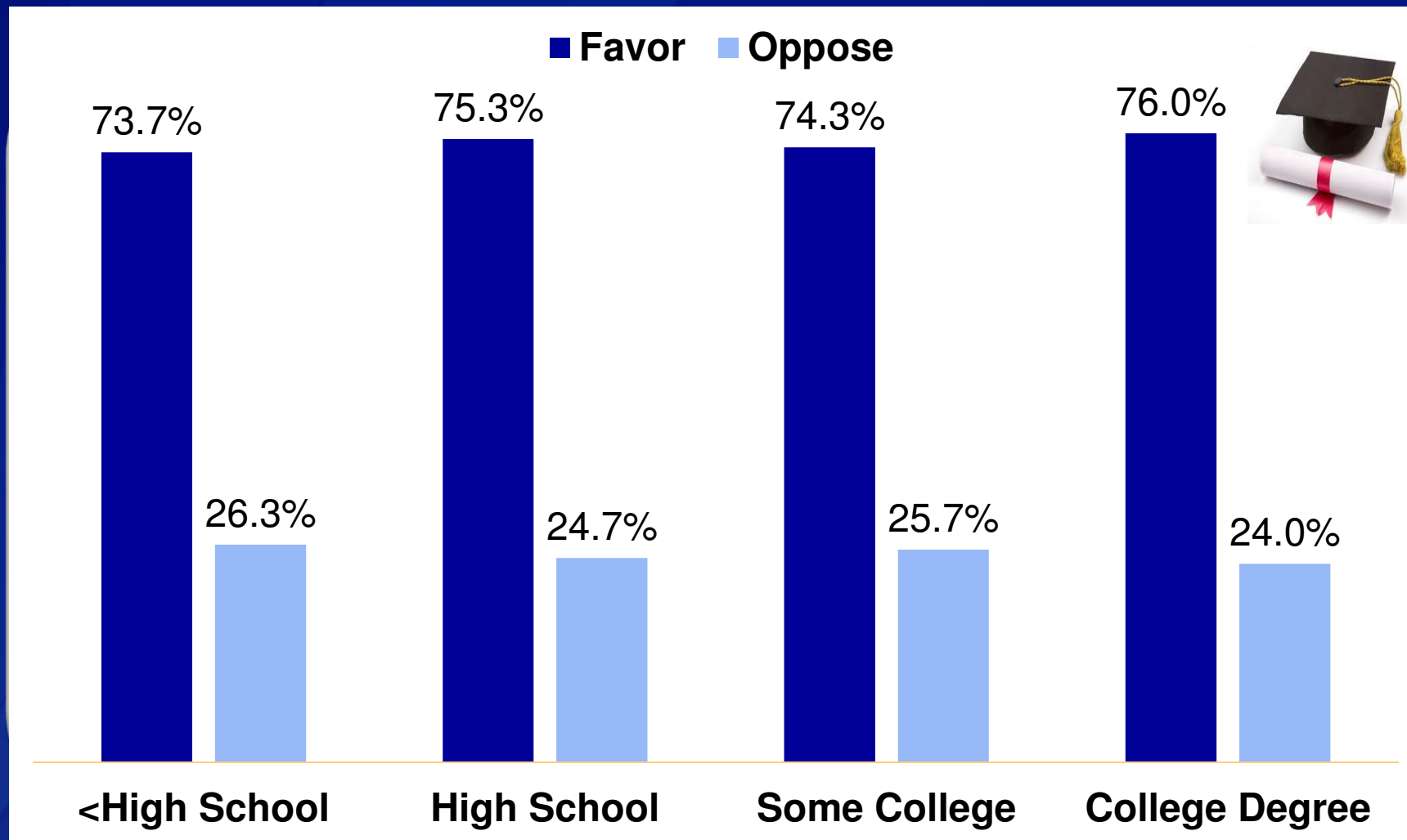
*Statistically different from the 18-24 favor group ($p < 0.05$)

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Racial/Ethnic Group



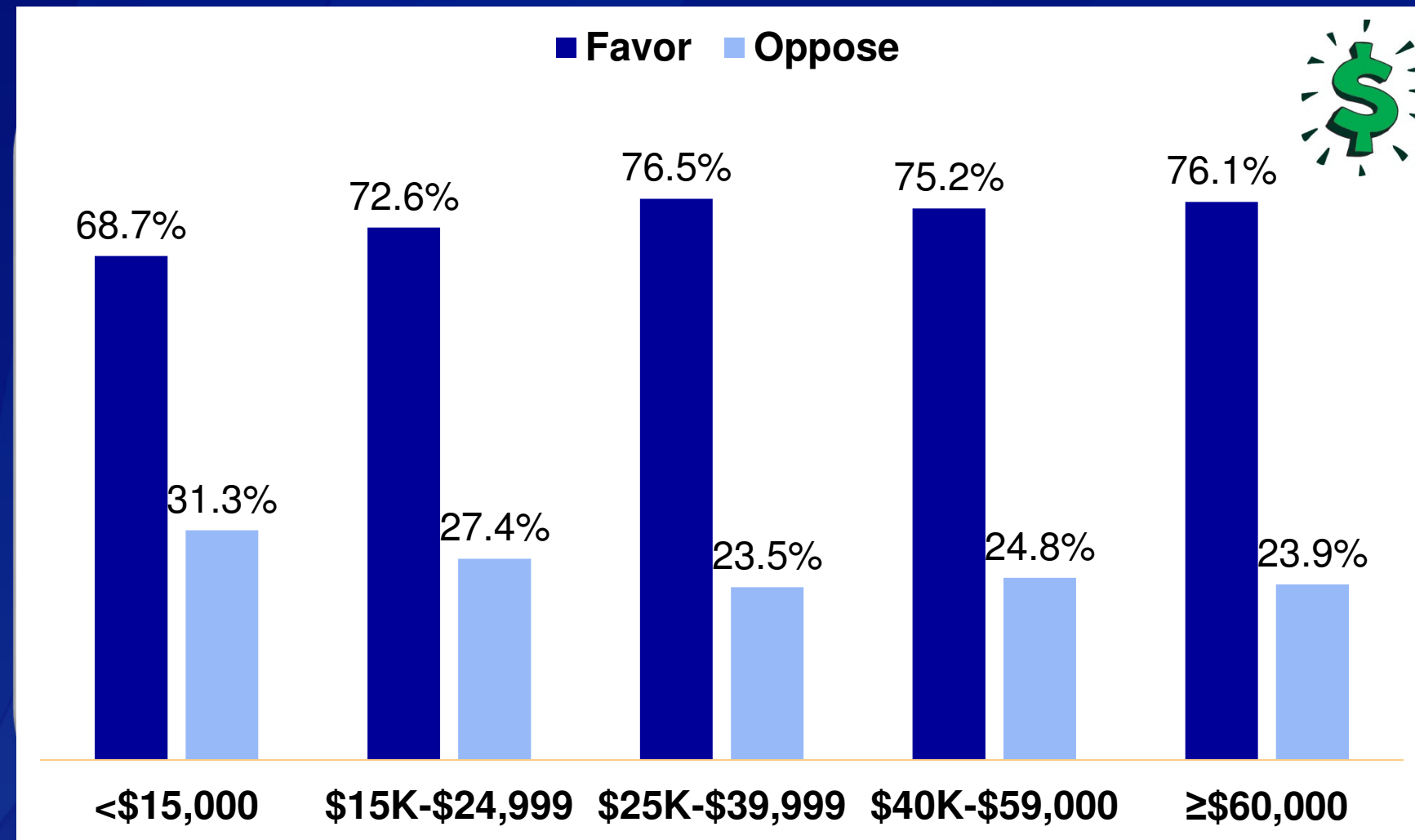
No statistically significant difference observed between groups.

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Education



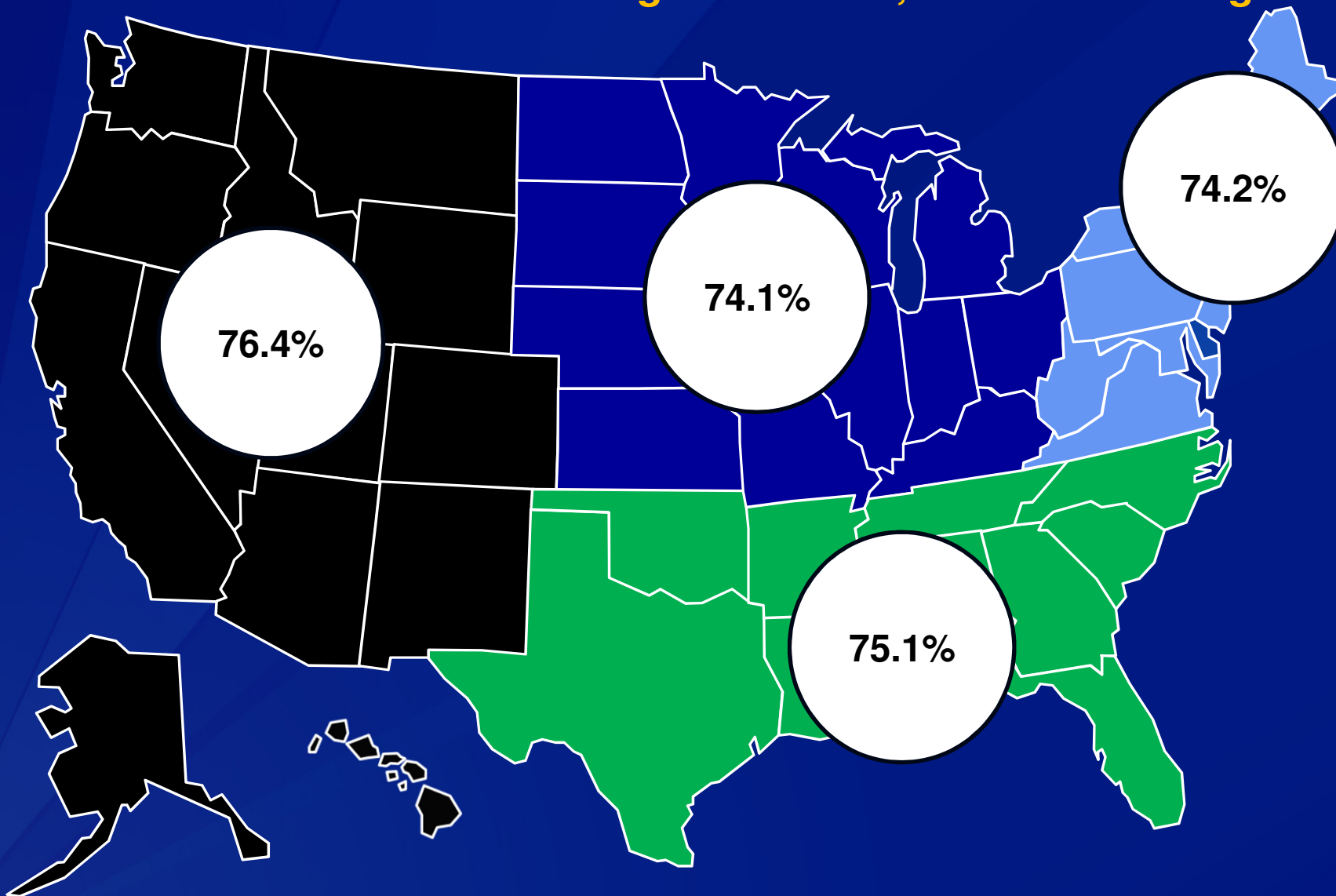
No statistically significant difference observed between groups.

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Annual Household Income



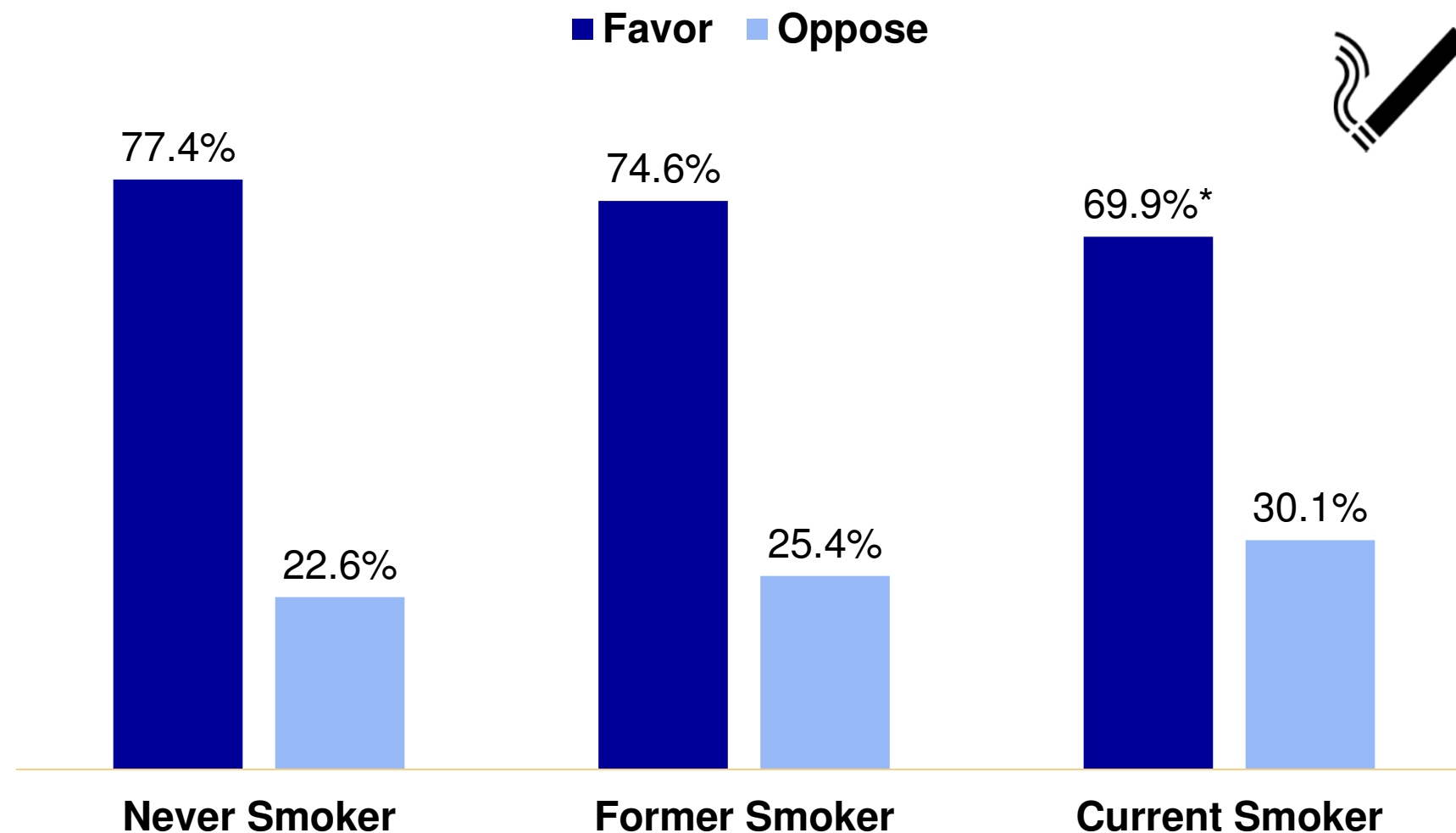
No statistically significant difference observed between groups.

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products to 21 among U.S. Adults, U.S. Census Region



No statistically significant difference observed between regions.

Favorability toward Raising the Legal Minimum Age to Purchase All Tobacco Products from 18 to 21 among U.S. Adults, by Cigarette Smoking Status



*Statistically different from never smokers ($p > 0.05$)

Multivariate Findings

	Adjusted Odds Ratio*	95% Confidence Interval
Age 18-24	Referent	--
25-44	1.8	1.3-2.5
45-64	2.3	1.7-3.2
≥65	3.1	2.2-4.5
Never Smokers	Referent	--
Former Smokers	0.7	0.6-0.9
Current Smokers	0.7	0.5-0.8

* Model included sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, income, region, and smoking status

Limitations

- ❑ Use of web panel
- ❑ Small samples for certain subpopulations
- ❑ Smoking status self-reported
- ❑ No state-level estimates

Conclusions

- ❑ **Three-quarters of U.S. adults favor raising the minimum tobacco purchase age to 21, including 7 in 10 smokers.**
- ❑ **An overwhelming majority of all assessed groups favored raising the minimum purchase age.**
 - Findings are consistent with state representative polls of voters in Colorado and Utah.*
- ❑ **Raising the minimum purchase age, along with proven tobacco control strategies, could prevent tobacco use among youth.**

*Source: Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Potential Implications of Raising the Tobacco Purchase Age to 21

Youth tobacco access:

- 1. Reduce the likelihood youth can access tobacco and provide it to peers**
- 2. Simplify compliance efforts**

Youth smoking:

- 1. Delay age of experimentation**
- 2. Reduce likelihood of transition to regular smoking**
- 3. Increase likelihood of cessation among regular users**

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